

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 10, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 38-46 are presented for examination. Claim 3 has been canceled, and its recitation incorporated into claim 1. Claims 38-46 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1 and 38 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 3, 5-7, and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claim 1, the base claim of claims 2-11 has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable claim 3 and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, discussed later. In addition, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitation of claim 1 and intervening claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 38 are in condition for allowance. This action is taken to expedite prosecution of the application is done without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Applicants further reserve the right to file one or more continuations based on the original claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,320,544 (Bryant et al.).

As discussed above, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 with the recitation of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of independent claim 1 under Section 102(b) has been obviated. Applicants further submit that this amended independent claim is now in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Should the

Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number identified below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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